THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) A High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee has been constituted on 28.1.97 to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest a rational, broad bassd, scientific and transparent methodology. The Composition and Terms of Reference of the Committee is shown in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Committee is required to submit its recommendations within a period of six months.

(d) and (e) A report on the decisions which are eventually taken by the Government in the light of the recommendations of the Committee will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Statement

Composition of the Committee

1. Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao,
   Former Member, Planning Commission - Chairman

2. Prof. G.B. Bhalla

3. Shri P.B. Krishnaswamy
   Former Secretary, D/o Fertilizers - Member

4. Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs
   and Prices (BICP) (ex-officio) - Member

5. Shri O.N. Kapur
   Chairman-cum-Managing Director
   Project and Development India Ltd. (PDIL) - Member

6. Smt. Kanta Ahuja
   Economist, Jaipur - Member

7. Executive Director
   Fertilizer Industry Coordination
   Committee (FICC)
   (Ex-officio Secretary) - Member

Terms of Reference of the Committee

(i) To review the working of the Retention Price Scheme (RPS) for fertilizers and to make suggestions for correcting the deficiencies of the system, keeping in view the broad objectives of economic reform. The Committee may also suggest an alternative methodology which shold be broad based, scientific and transparent.

(ii) To review the adequacy or otherwise of incentives to ths industry. Issues relating to reasonableness of return on networth, norms of capacity utilization, depreciation etc.

(iii) To suggest appropriate capital norms and debt equity ratio in respect of new fertilizer projects.

(iv) To review the input pricing policy and its impact on the RPS.

(v) To review the system of equated freight and recommend measures to rationalise it, including minimisation of cross country movement to reduce leads.

(vi) To suggest measures to improve the cohesiveness of the policies in respect of the controlled and decontrolled segments of the fertilizer industry, especially the policies impinging on the availability of fertilizers and ths relative pricing of controlled and decontrolled fertilizers with a view to achieving an agronomically desirable NPK consumption ratio, while keeping the fertilizer subsidy at a reasonable level.

(vii) Any other item that may be considered appropriate.

VIP Security

5896. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "VIP security, drain on resources Home Secy." appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated February 21, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw the security provided to such persons including the Members of Parliament who no longer require the same and allow the police to perform their normal duties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and as such the responsibility for providing security to the persons residing wihtin their jurisdiction is that of the concerned State/UTs. As regards Delhi, applications made by various persons for providing personal security on various grounds are got vetted by the security agencies. In other circumstances, the requirement should generally be met by the normal police set up. The cases are periodically reviewed and security arrangements are modified/withdrawn as warranted from time to time.

Hilsha Fish

5897. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to increase Hilsha Fish Production in the river Ganga;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the plans to boost up fish production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CICFRI), Barrackpore has initiated several steps for revival of Hilsa fishery in the river Ganga. These include developing technologies for breeding and seed production of Hilsa for restocking the depleted stretches. Further a steady increase in the fishery of hilsa has also been noticed in the Farakka region and in the upstream stretches during the last four years.

(c) The Government of India is implementing schemes/ programmes to increase production of fish and other marine products through expansion of aquaculture in fresh and brackishwater, development of coastal marine fisheries, construction requisite infrastructure such as Marketing units, fishery harbours and fish landing centres in all the States and Union Territories including West Bengal.

Project for Sundargarh District, Orissa

5898. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa had sent a proposal for the construction of Arbajhorabahal Community lift Irrigation Project in Sundargarh district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount already released and the time by which the rest of the amount is likely to be released; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A Proposal for installation of community lift Irrigation Project at Arbajhorabahal in Sundargarh District was received from Government of Orissa in January, 1993 for release of funds under Additional SCA. The project envisaged irrigation of 4500 acres of land in Kharif season and 3500 acres of land in rabi season in the first phase; and 2790 acres in rabi season in second phase, of 2703 small and marginal farmers of which 2404 belong to Scheduled Tribes. The total cost of the project estimated was Rs. 358.85 lakhs.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 158.00 lakhs was released to the Government of Orissa in December, 1994 as Additional SCA, with the commitment that the balance amount would be sanctioned in the subsequent years, depending on the progress of work and utilisation certificate furnished by the State Government. The balance amount could not be released during 1995-96 as a revised proposal with the request to release the balance amount from the State Government was received as late as on1 15.4.1996. In the mean time, the scheme of Addl. SCA was abolished during 1996-97 and as such the balance amount could not be sanctioned. The State Government can, however, utilise the normal SCA for completing these projects.

Polluting Sugar Mills

5899. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many sugar mills are emitting pollution and their effluent is polluting the rivers resulting into the death of many animals;

(b) if so, the details of such sugar mills; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such mills?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Sporadic incidences of adverse impacts on aquatic life have been reported due to discharge of effluents from industries including sugar mills.

As per the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board, out of a total number of 392 sugar mills, 309 sugar mills are having the requisite pollution control facilities. 21 sugar mills are closed and the remaining 62 sugar mills do not have adequate pollution control facilities.

(c) Show cause notices under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, have been issued to all the 62 defaulting sugar mills.

Ban on Wooden Furniture

5900. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan for imposing ban on purchase of wooden furniture for the Government Offices and use of wood in private and Government buildigns has been proposed in view of continuous falling of trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) A Policy Advisory Group was constituted by this Ministry in the year 1990 to advise on wood substitution measures. The recommendations of the Policy Advisory Group have been forwarded to all the State Governments/Union Territories in December, 1992. The relevant portions of the said recommendations read as under:

(i) For building construction and furniture use of solid wood should be restricted and instead wood panels encouraged.